(3) Vide answer to (2). The machinery in the Head Works are in good condition.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.— Will the drought affect the bore-holes?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.— Yes. Rain is the source of supply to the bore.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Is there any mean of finding out the quantity of water we get a day in a particular bore?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We have tested it last year when the drought was phenomenal

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Can we reasonably expect to get a good supply of water throughout the year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What is the date when the first of these four applications was received by the department?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It was sometime last year.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.— In the beginning of the year or towards the close?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In the beginning of last year.

Necessity of an east to west thodu connecting Eroor thodu with the Ernakulam back-water.

132. Mr. A. Narayana Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) are the Government aware of the failures of crops in the Irimpanam, Eroor and Punnurunni wetlands on account of annual floods; have the Government received complaints on this; if so, when;

(2) what is the area of wet lands in each of the three places;

(3) is there any easy outlet for excess rain water in the said areas;

(4) will not the construction of an east to west thodu from Eroor thodu to the Ernakulam backwater give considerable relief to the affected areas; in that case cannot single crop lands be converted to double crop ones;

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(5) will there not be considerable advance commercially of the plots through which the said thodu will run on account of facilities of transport;

(6) if such a thodu is constructed how much land will have to be acquired and at what cost; are there extensive porambokes in the locality; and if so, how much;

(7) had the Irrigation Special Engineer at any time adverted to the necessity or otherwise of this thodu; if so, with what result; will the Government be pleased to place on the table his report and the order of the Government thereon?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) Failure of crops had occured in certain years when rainfall was very heavy. Government have received several representations in the matter, the latest one being in August last.

(2) Irimpanam 890 acres.
Eroor 970 acres.
Punnurunni 200 acres.

(3) There are some outlets; but they are inadequate. A scheme designed to give better drainage facilities to the localities is now engaging the attention of the Government.

(4) It may give relief to the lands on the western margin of the eastern river. As for the possibility of converting single crop lands into double crop ones the question can be answered only after investigation.

(5) The canal will be useful for navigation purposes.

(6) The question can be answered only after investigation. There are porambokes in the locality.

(7) This thodu also has been adverted to in the Chief Engineer's scheme now under the consideration of Government. Extract from the Chief Engineer's report relating to the thodu is appended *(Appendix II.)*

Mr. A. Narayana Menon.—(3) What is the distance of the next outlet from the Chambakkadavu thodu to the next thodu that connects the eastern side of the Ernakulam backwater?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—I do not exactly know the locality. I want notice.

Silver Jubilee—grant of free lands to beggars.

133. Mr. A. V. Moothedan.—With regard to the proposal, in honour of the King's Silver Jubilee, to grant free lands

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